

Homelessness, Water Quality, & Implementation of HR2W

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HR2W HISTORY

- California became first state to pass legislation recognizing water as a human right (AB 685)
- State Water Board adopted a resolution making HR2W a core value and top priority of the State Board (2016)

Three parts to HRTW

1. Safe and Clean
2. Affordable
3. Accessible



Photo by Florence Low

**Every human being has the right to safe, clean,
affordable, and accessible water adequate for human
consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.**

AB 685 | HR2W

HR2W RESOLUTION

- Work with stakeholders to collect data to identify and track communities that do not have safe, clean affordable water
- Office of Sustainable Water Solutions to provide technical and compliance assistance to DACs to select sustainable approach that supports HR2W
- Implementing financial assistance programs to address communities unserved or underserved by PWS or wastewater treatment systems



Photo by Florence Low

A map of California divided into several colored regions. The colors include light green, blue, dark blue, orange, yellow-green, teal, light green, purple, brown, magenta, and dark blue. A horizontal blue band with white text is overlaid across the center of the map.

Regional Board Efforts

North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Signed MOU with Sonoma County to address impacts from homeless encampments and pathogen impairment in the Russian River caused by deficient septic systems.
- Coordinating with the City of Santa Rosa to reduce trash in waterways caused by discharges from homeless encampments and the MS4.
- Actively providing technical assistance to disadvantaged communities to plan and implement needed wastewater infrastructure.





San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

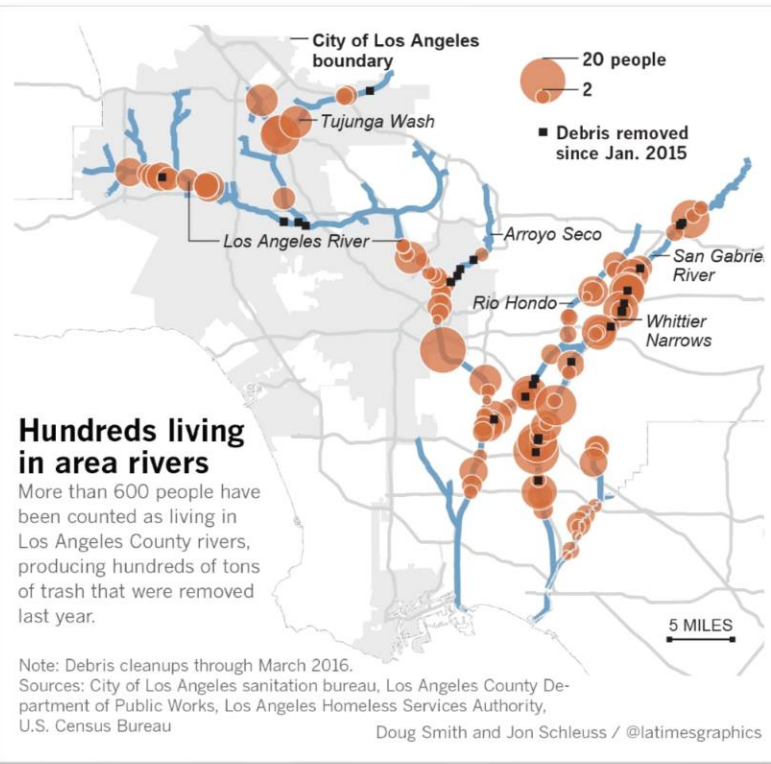
- Adopted Homeless Encampments Resolution (R2-2015-0024)
- Board's authority to regulate discharges of waste from homeless encampments
- Regional Municipal Stormwater Permit adopted by the Board included a provision within the trash reduction
- Are actively overseeing compliance with trash provisions, including municipalities' attempts to address homeless encampments.

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Identified homelessness & water quality as a 2017 priority
 - “Investigate, in collaboration with local agencies, the nature and scope of water quality impacts associated with homelessness, and develop measures to mitigate water quality impacts that are protective of water quality and the homeless”

(from *California Water Boards 2016 Accomplishments Report*)

- Recent (2018) collaboration with local agencies
 - Participation in City of LA Mayor’s Homelessness Task Force
 - Participation in County of LA Update to LA River Master Plan
 - Communication and upcoming meeting with Ventura County Homeless Task Force



Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

- The homeless use waterbodies as a source of water, but homeless encampments can also impact water quality
 - Bacteria and trash are long-standing concerns in the LA River and other waterbodies in the region
 - Since 2001, LA Water Board has adopted numerous TMDLs addressing trash and bacteria in the region's waterbodies
- Implementation tools
 - TMDLs/NPS program: Trash cleanups in homeless encampments (e.g., Ventura River Estuary)
 - 401 WQC: Coordination with cities to facilitate cleanups in waterbodies with homeless encampments (e.g., Big Tujunga Wash)
 - MS4 permit: Trash controls & low-flow diversions in DTLA



Images by David McNew



Photo by Luke Hayter

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Increased E.coli, trash and public concern regarding the Lower American River
- SWAMP study to identify source of E.coli in Lower American River
- Local agencies task force
 - Regional Board and State Board Staff
 - City of Sacramento
 - Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
 - Sacramento County
 - Sacramento Area Sewer District
 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)



[Photo by Luke Hayter](#)

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Held a stakeholder meeting with other water agencies, environmental groups, citizen groups and homeless advocacy groups
- Research successful outcomes in other areas
- Goal: work collaboratively to find short and long term solutions



Photo by Mark Weston

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Staff initiating meetings with local representative of municipalities
- Discuss means to monitor and improve WQ in the rivers and streams occupied by homeless encampments
- Staff plan to host a workshop for creating a Santa Ana Regional Board Human Right to Water Resolution

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

- Prepared a draft Investigative Order
 - Lower SD River Watershed
 - ID and eliminate sources of human waste marker and norovirus
 - *(Tentative Investigative Order No. R9-2018-0021)*
- WQ evidence points to presence of human waste in river and tributaries
- 100+ encampments and 300 homeless individual residents

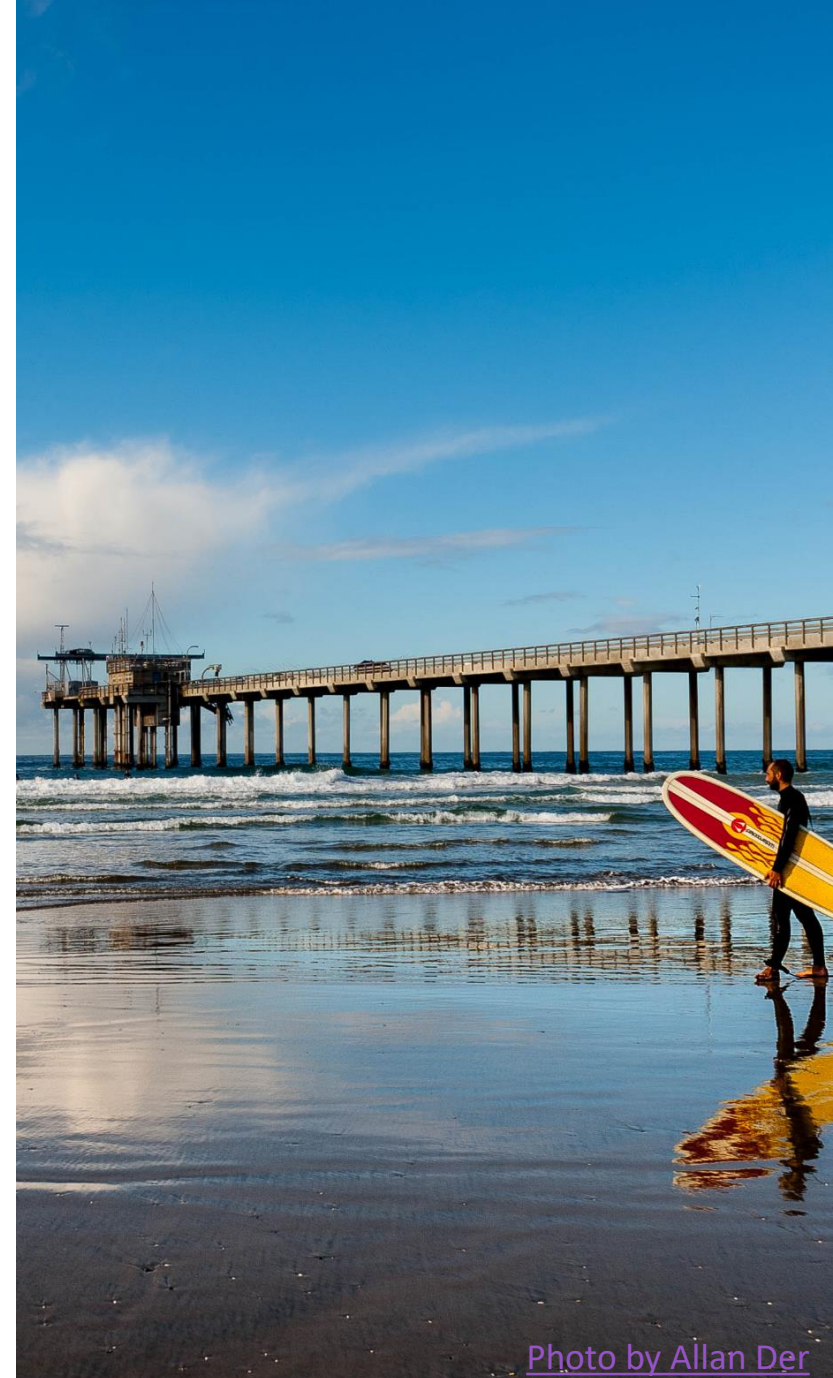


Photo by Allan Der

MOVING FORWARD

- Complex societal issue
- It takes a village
- Learn from the lessons of our other Regional Boards
- Collaboration

